

Frankford Arsenal, Building 68  
Southeast corner of Walbach Street and Benet Road  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Philadelphia

HAER No. PA-74T

HAER  
PA,  
51-PHILA,  
693-T-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## Frankford Arsenal, Building 68

HAER No. PA-74T

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PA  
51-2, 111  
693-T-

Location: Southeast corner of Walbach Street and Benet Road  
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1942

Significance: Building 68, constructed as a fuze loading house, is associated with the expansion of Frankford Arsenal during World War II. Used as a laboratory after 1946, the building is also associated with the important research and design work conducted at the arsenal, the U.S. Army's principal manufacturer of small arms ammunition.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon  
Principal Historian  
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## HISTORY

Constructed as a fuze loading house in 1922, Building 68 was used as a laboratory after 1946. The corrugated metal addition to the southwest, an enclosed loading platform, dates from 1942, while the northern entry and switch room dates from sometime after 1951.

## DESCRIPTION

Building 68 is an irregular plan, single-story building with a concrete foundation and brick and concrete walls. The easternmost portion of the building is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 23 feet by 106 feet. It has a gabled asbestos shingle roof with seven ventilators arrayed along the ridge line. Attached to the west elevation on this portion of the building is a single-story, flat-roofed brick wing, measuring approximately 20 feet by 42 feet. A loading platform projects from the southwest corner of this wing and is enclosed with a structural steel frame with asbestos-protected corrugated metal siding and roof. A reinforced concrete magazine is located at the northwest corner of the building and is connected to the building by a wood frame-covered walkway. Sometime after 1951, a brick entry was added to the north facade of the building. Window openings in the main block are rectangular, with concrete lintels and brick jack arches. Some openings have been reduced in size with brick infill. Original sash are six-over-six units.

## SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal" (West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, (1979).

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

